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18-5-09

AL/546

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

Sec. Miss Margery I. Corbett B.A.
25, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

May 18th, 1909.

Re Divisional Secretaries.

Dear Madam,

The Secretaries' meeting at Brighton suggested the appointment of Divisional Secretaries whose duty it shall be to furnish the special information required for bye-elections.

Acting upon these suggestions we have mapped out the constituencies in Great Britain round societies already existing in the Union. We shall therefore feel much obliged if your Society will kindly make itself responsible for the appointment of divisional secretaries in the constituencies named below and we should be glad to have the names and addresses of these divisional secretaries as you obtain them.

Should you feel unable to undertake so much will you notify us as to which are the constituencies for which you will be responsible.

We enclose the list of questions which we hope the divisional secretaries will gradually be able to answer.

The most important work lies under heading three, to which we would particularly draw your attention. Before a candidate is formally adopted he is interviewed by the Executive Committee of the local party organization or by some members of it. It is most important to have a friend of our cause on such a committee in order to ensure that a question as to the candidate's views on Woman's Suffrage should be asked at the first informal meeting of candidates and possible supporters. A strong party woman who is also a Suffragist may be found to put the initial pressure on the men of her party, by threatening that the women will withhold support where this is true.

In view of the General Election when our forces will be much scattered we want to ensure that the candidates of every party are for us that we may win whoever else loses. As the General Election may be imminent it is essential that the secretaries should be set to work with as little delay as possible.

Yours faithfully,

MARGERY I. CORBETT.

N.B.

The Constituencies for which you are asked to be responsible are:- *those in the area covered by the branch societies you control.*

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TELEGRAMS: "VOICELESS, LONDON."

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NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

Hon. Secretaries:
MISS EDITH DIMOCK.
MISS FRANCES STERLING.

President:
MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Treasurer:
MISS BERTHA MASON.

Reply to

MISS MARGERY I. CORBETT, B.A.,
25, VICTORIA STREET, WESTMINSTER,
LONDON, S.W.

CONFIDENTIAL.

June? 1909

May 18 1909

QUESTIONS FOR DIVISIONAL SECRETARIES.

- 1.—Names and addresses of Candidates and their views.
- 2.—Names and addresses of Candidates' Agents.
- 3.—Names and addresses of Members of Executive Committee and Secretaries of Party Organizations who are likely to be concerned in the selection of Candidates.
- 4.—Names and addresses of Secretaries of Organizations in constituency, such as Primrose League, Women's Liberal Association, B.W.T.A., Co-operative Guild.
- 5.—Chief towns and villages and character of division, agricultural or industrial.
- 6.—Places suitable for Committee Room centres (in order of importance).
- 7.—Names of local newspapers and editors.
- 8.—The Halls in division; price, seating capacity, character of neighbourhood, and schools which might be let.
- 9.—Any special police regulations for open-air meetings, and suitable sites for these.
- 10.—Names and addresses of sympathisers who would be likely to lend Motor Cars.
- 11.—Means of communication between different parts of the division.